

What is claimed is:

1. An output characteristic switching method of a sensor device for receiving a power supply voltage and outputting a detecting signal, the method comprising:

switching a function of at least a terminal from receiving the power supply voltage or outputting the detecting signal to inputting a signal received from an exterior; and

switching output characteristics of the sensor device by fetching an external command signal through the terminal while the terminal is for inputting the signal received from the exterior.

2. The output characteristic switching method of the sensor device according to claim 1, wherein said external command signal is a digital signal.

3. A sensor device comprising:

a terminal for outputting a detecting signal provided by a change in a voltage component;

a terminal function changing device for functionally changing the terminal to a terminal for inputting an external signal when a voltage value in the terminal is dislocated from a predetermined range; and

an output characteristic switching device for fetching an external command signal through the terminal and switching output characteristics after the terminal is changed to the terminal for inputting the external signal.

4. A sensor device comprising:

a terminal for outputting a detecting signal provided by a change in electric current component;

a terminal function changing device for functionally changing the terminal to a terminal for inputting an external signal when a voltage value in the terminal is dislocated from a predetermined range; and

an output characteristic switching device for fetching an external command signal through the terminal and switching output characteristics after the terminal is changed to the terminal for inputting the external signal.

5. A sensor device comprising:

a first terminal for receiving a power supply voltage;

a second terminal for outputting a detecting signal provided by a change in a voltage component;

a terminal function changing device for functionally changing the second terminal to a terminal for inputting an external signal when a voltage value in the first terminal is dislocated from a predetermined range; and

an output characteristic switching device for fetching an external command signal through the second terminal and switching output characteristics after the second terminal is changed to the terminal for inputting the external signal.

6. A sensor device comprising:
a first terminal for receiving a power supply voltage;
a second terminal for outputting a detecting signal provided by a change in a voltage component;
a terminal function changing device for functionally changing the first terminal to a terminal for inputting an external signal when a voltage value in the first terminal is dislocated from a predetermined range; and
an output characteristic switching device for fetching an external command signal through the first terminal and switching output characteristics after the first terminal is changed to the terminal for inputting the external signal.

7. The sensor device according to any one of claims 3 to 6, wherein said external command signal is a digital signal.